

one by Dr. Templeman of Dundee on "Strangulation and Hanging," in which he gave the results of a somewhat considerable experience of these in medico-legal work. Mr. Caird gave "Notes on a Case of Gastrotomy," in which the operation had been done by means of local anæsthesia with cocaine. Dr. Robert Fleming read "Some Notes on a Case of Cancrum Oris," in which he reviewed the literature and the views held regarding the etiology of the disease and indicated his adhesion to the bacterial view. Mr. C. W. Cathcart gave a "Note on the Quenching of Thirst after Abdominal Operations," in which he advocated rectal injections of water, his experience being that it was a most efficacious measure.

#### *Inspection of Meat in Edinburgh.*

At a recent meeting of the Market and Public Health Committee of the Edinburgh Town Council a recommendation was carried in favour of establishing a compulsory clearing-house for the inspection of dead meat and of steps being taken to obtain the necessary Parliamentary powers for the purpose. This came before the Town Council at their meeting to-day, and after considerable discussion the matter was referred back to the committee, who were requested to report at length on the whole subject.

#### *Small-pox in Edinburgh.*

At the meeting of the Town Council to-day it was intimated that there were 13 cases of small-pox in hospital, but that no fresh cases had occurred for three weeks. There were 89 cases of scarlet fever in hospital, and the cases were on the increase.

June 13th.

## IRELAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

#### *Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.*

FROM the fiftieth annual report of the council of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, recently issued, it appears that during the year ending April 5th last twelve candidates were admitted Fellows, eighty-five received the Letters Testimonial, having passed the conjoint examination with the Royal College of Physicians, seven obtained the licence in dental surgery and five the diploma in State medicine. The Fellows last March adopted resolutions against the Home Rule Bill on the plea that if passed it would be injurious to the finances of the College and to the interests of its Fellows and licentiates. In the same month the council adopted a resolution expressing the opinion that it is injurious to the interests of the conjoint scheme between the Colleges that examiners for the diploma of the College should also be examiners for other licensing bodies in Ireland which are at the same time teaching institutions. During the year a memorial was addressed to the Lords of the Treasury asking that the College, as an institution engaged in technical education in Ireland, should be granted a share in the fund set aside for the encouragement of such education. The Lords of the Treasury refused the application. A large amount of the time of the council was occupied in relation to the examiners for competitive examinations for the Army and Navy Medical Services appointed by the Secretary of State for War, and a memorial was sent by the council, who submitted that the granting of a monopoly of public competitive examinations to any educational or qualifying body was altogether without precedent and necessarily inflicted great injustice upon other similar bodies, inasmuch as it had the effect of diverting from them students who proposed to compete for such appointments, who would naturally be led to seek instruction at institutions with which the examiners who were subsequently to test them were connected, in order that they might thus acquire familiarity with the practice and professional opinions of such examiners. In April last the President of the College resigned the Chair of Surgery in the school of the College.

#### *Royal Medical Benevolent Fund Society of Ireland.*

The annual meeting was held last week, being presided over by the President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. The report gives expression to the disappointment felt by the committee that the provinces, which naturally supply the majority of applications for the Society's aid, do not render it as much assistance as it is reasonable to expect. Five counties gave no assistance during the year. In commemoration of the jubilee year of the Society, the committee recommend an addition of 10 per

cent. to the amounts of the regular grants. The expenses of management, including £36 for law expenses, amounted to £159 9s. 8d., or 8.5 per cent. of the receipts, which appear to have been higher than might have been expected.

#### *Cork Water-supply: Pollution of the River Lee.*

Cork is supplied by the River Lee and one of its tributaries is the Sullane, which runs through the town of Macroom. Some time ago the Cork corporation drew the attention of the Local Government Board to the injurious influence which the existing system of sewage disposal at Macroom was calculated to exercise upon the Cork urban water-supply. Recently the Board sent their engineering inspector, Mr. Smyth, and Dr. Brown, medical inspector, to examine into the matter. Mr. Smyth, in his report to the Public Health Committee, makes some startling statements as to the drainage of the eastern side of Macroom and the consequent pollution of the Sullane, which flows into the Lee. He states that the portion of the town at the extreme east, comprising a street of one-storeyed houses, is not drained, there being a surface channel to carry off the rain water, and into which the refuse of the houses is thrown. The contents of this open channel are discharged into the river. None of the houses in this street have water-closets. Castle-street comprises about twenty houses, having a population of about 120; there are about six closets in use, and a few disused in houses without water-closets. The slops and excrement are thrown into traps and are discharged into drains which communicate directly with the river. The school-house, containing two water-closets, in like manner also discharges its refuse into the river, which is thereby polluted. With these exceptions the general system of drainage is fairly good, flushing tanks being provided. The subsoil, being composed of sand and gravel, is well adapted for irrigation purposes and, the town being situated so high above the river, the sewage is fully filtered before it could possibly reach the latter. Mr. Donovan, medical superintendent officer of health for Cork, was present at this meeting and stated that, besides what Mr. Smyth had reported, there was an overflow from the sewage tank that went directly into the river from Neville's Inch, which was blocked with sewage. It was decided by the committee that the report of Mr. Smyth should be supplemented by a report from Mr. Donovan and sent to the Local Government Board.

#### *Royal University of Ireland Union.*

A provisional committee has been appointed by the graduates of the Royal University and of the late Queen's University to make inquiries with a view to the establishment of the proposed union. It is stated that the Standing Committee of the University have indicated a willingness to provide premises for the proposed reading-rooms, literary meetings &c., but they do not appear to be inclined to permit lady graduates to participate in the privileges of the union.

Professor Antony Roche, Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence and Hygiene in the Medical School of the Catholic University, has been elected a member of the Society of Public Analysts of Great Britain.

June 13th.

## Obituary.

### PROFESSOR PETER OF PARIS.

(FROM OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.)

DEATH has been active during the year at the Paris Faculty of Medicine. To the names of Professors Hardy and Ball, who have disappeared from our midst, there must now be added that of Professor Peter, who expired at his residence in the Rue de Hambourg on Thursday last, at 5.30 P.M., in the presence of his wife, his two children and a few faithful friends and *confrères*. For some time past the effects of the incessant work demanded by his perhaps too active brain had become apparent and his condition inspired his family with grave anxieties. The immediate cause of death was pulmonary congestion, which proved fatal after a few days' illness, despite the efforts made by his devoted friend, Professor Dieulafoy. Charles Félix Michel Peter was a Parisian *pur-sang*, having been born in that city on Nov. 5th, 1824. He was ever proud to confess his humble origin and the hard struggle he had had to wage in order to raise himself from the humble position of printer's reader to that of Professor of Clinical Medicine at the Faculty of